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NEWS RELEASE

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Nicholson Broughton, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Richmond Office, and Andre Parker, Chief, Richmond Police Department, announce that Rajeshkukmar Patel, age 34, of Richmond, Virginia, plead guilty today before United States District Judge Richard L. Williams to one count of misprision of a felony. Patel faces a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and a term of supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for May 8, 2003.

Patel is the owner and operator of the Beacon Motel located in Richmond, Virginia. He was present when quantities of cocaine base were distributed and consumed in various rooms of the hotel and failed to report the conduct to law enforcement personnel.

As part of the plea agreement, Patel agreed to enter into a civil judgment forfeiting his interest in the Beacon Motel to the United States.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Richmond Police Department, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Wallace, Sr.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This case demonstrates the ongoing commitment of all law enforcement in the region to fight the drug trade and to safeguard the quality of life in our community."